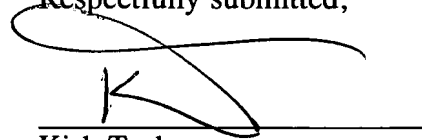


37 CFR 1.131 affidavit.

The applicants submit herewith 37 CFR 1.131 affidavit which swears back of U.S. Patent No. 5,969,236 to Ward et al. Because this affidavit overcomes the cited patent, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Kirk Teska', written over a horizontal line.

Kirk Teska  
Reg. No. 36,291